



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19998

Proposed No. 2025-0186.2

Sponsors Dunn

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the creation of a housing
2 court commissioner position of the King County superior
3 court.

4 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

5 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

6 A. Article IV, Section 23, of the Washington State Constitution authorizes the
7 appointment of up to three court commissioners per county. The court commissioners are
8 appointed by the superior court and have the power to perform the duties of a superior
9 court judge that do not require a trial by jury, and other duties provided by law to aid in
10 the administration of justice. All acts and proceedings of court commissioners are subject
11 to revision by a superior court judge upon motion by a party.

12 B. In addition to the constitutionally authorized commissioners, the Legislature
13 has authorized superior courts to appoint additional commissioners to assist superior
14 court judges in specific areas of the law. These statutorily authorized commissioners
15 include mental health commissioners, family law commissioners, and criminal
16 commissioners, and are limited to the authority that they are expressly granted in statute.

17 C. Chapter 268, Laws of Washington 2025, authorizes each county superior court
18 to appoint new court commissioners to assist the superior court in disposing of its
19 business related to unlawful detainer actions for residential tenancies covered by chapter

Ordinance 19998

20 59.18 RCW and chapter 59.20 RCW. The county legislative authority must approve the
21 creation of housing court commissioner positions.

22 D. A significant surge in unlawful detainer filings has contributed to delays in
23 court proceedings and case resolutions, creating burdens for both landlords and tenants.
24 Creation of the housing court commissioner positions of the King County superior court
25 will help address delays in court proceedings.

26 SECTION 2. By this ordinance, the county legislative authority approves the
27 creation of one housing court commissioner position to assist the superior court

Ordinance 19998

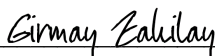
- 28 in disposing of its business related to unlawful detainer actions for residential tenancies
- 29 covered by chapter 59.18 RCW and chapter 59.20 RCW.

Ordinance 19998 was introduced on 7/1/2025 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/18/2025, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Mosqueda, Perry, Quinn, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:



1AEA3C5077F8485...

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:



8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of 11/25/2025, _____.

Signed by:



AAA4841FD7644BE...

Shannon Braddock, County Executive

Attachments: None

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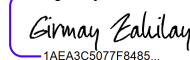
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Council Chair

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Clerk of the Council

King County Council

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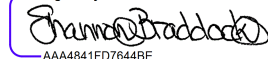
Shannon Braddock

Shannon.Braddock@kingcounty.gov

King County Executive

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Agent Delivery Events

Status

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Status

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Ames Kessler
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Executive Legislative Coordinator & Public Records
Officer
King County
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